

Appln. No. 10/655,894
Amendment dated June 9, 2005
Reply to Office Action of March 15, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The March 15, 2005 Office Action and the Examiner's comments have been carefully considered. In response, claims are cancelled and amended, and remarks are set forth below in a sincere effort to place the present application in form for allowance. The amendments are supported by the application as originally filed. Therefore, no new matter is added.

Inasmuch as the present Amendment raises no new issues for consideration, and, in any event, places the present application in condition for allowance or in better condition for consideration on appeal, its entry under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.116 is respectfully requested.

INTERVIEW

The courtesy of Examiner Colilla in granting an interview in connection with this application is acknowledged and appreciated. The interview took place on May 23, 2005. Present at the interview were Applicant's attorney, Robert Michal, and Examiner Colilla. During the interview, Applicant's attorney pointed out to Examiner Colilla that in both the first Office Action and in the Final Rejection the Examiner indicated that claims 6-8 and

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15-17 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response to the non-final Office Action, Applicant amended claim 1 in an effort to more clearly define claim 1 over the prior art of record. Examiner Colilla apparently did not find the amendments and arguments persuasive and maintained his rejection of claim 1. During the interview Applicant's attorney confirmed the allowability of claims 6-8 and 15-17 if claim 6 is amended to include the limitations of claim 1 as originally filed as opposed to the limitations of claim 1 after entry of the December 20, 2004 response. The Examiner confirmed that claims 6-8 and 15-17 would be allowable if claim 6 were amended to include the limitations set forth in claim 1 as originally filed.

During the interview Applicant's attorney also advised the Examiner that the dependency of claims 2, 4, 5 and 9 would be amended to be dependent on claim 6 so that claims 2, 4, 5 and 9 would be allowed along with claim 6.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

In the Office Action claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 3-39256 (Iinuma). Claims 1 and

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5 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 3-288660 (Sato et al.). Claim 9 is rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Iinuma, and further in view of JP 6-227000 (Ito et al.). Claims 10-13 are rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Iinuma, and further in view of USP 4,552,064 (Sanders, Jr. et al.). Claim 14 is rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Sato et al., and further in view of Sanders, Jr. et al. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Iinuma in view of Ito et al., and further in view of Sanders, Jr. et al.

The Examiner's indication that claims 6-8 and 15-17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims is acknowledged and appreciated. In response, claim 6 is amended to include limitations from claim 1 as originally filed, the dependency of claims 2, 4, 5 and 9 are changed to be dependent on claim 6, and claims 1 and 10 are cancelled. In view of the cancellation of claims 1 and 10 and the amendment of claims 2, 4, 5 and 9, claims 2-9 and 11-18 are in form for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Submitted herewith is an Information Disclosure Statement along with the required fee for consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement at this stage of prosecution. If any additional fees are due, or if any overpayment has been made, please charge or credit our Deposit Account No. 06-1378 for such sum.

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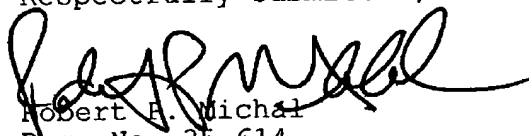
Entry of this Amendment under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.116, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to point out where there is support for a contrary view.

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If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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Encl.: Information Disclosure Statement, Forms PTO/SB/08A &
PTO/SB/08B; Copies of Cited References
Credit Card Authorization Form in the Amount of \$180.00